

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8497

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1076

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER LEE: SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

REF: STATE 045669

1. PRIME MINISTER LEE WILL BE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN EXCHANGING VIEWS ABOUT FUTURE OF SEA IN POST- VIET- NAM ENVIRONMENT. HE WILL WANT OUR ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS, INTENTIONS OF VIET CONG AND NVN, POLITICAL STRENGTH OF THIEU AND MILITARY CAPABILITY OF SVN, FUTURE OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND INTENTIONS PRC AND RUSSIA VIS- A- VIS INDO CHINA. HE WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF MAGNITUDE OF RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT AND HOW WE THINK THIS SHOULD BE ORGANIZED AND FINANCED. PM WILL PROBABLY INDICATE AN INTEREST IN MAKING A MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO THIS EFFORT. (MOST APPROPRIATE TYPE OF GOS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE IN FIELD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN URBAN PLANNING, FISCAL AND MONETARY AFFAIRS, PUBLIC HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL PARK MANAGEMENT, LONG- TERM INDUSTRIAL PLANNING AND TECHNIQUES OF ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVEST- MENT. SINGAPORE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN VIETNAMESE INDUSTRY IS ALSO POSSIBILITY.)

2. OTHER SUBJECTS PM MAY WISH TO DISCUSS ARE:

A) WHAT ARE US INTENTIONS VIS- A- VIS THE PRC AND ROC?

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GOS, AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, WISHES TO DELAY ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL RELATIONS WITH PRC AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT WILL BE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW MOVES OF ASEAN PARTNERS. LEE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT BEING ABLE TO INFLUENCE PACE AT WHICH WE OR OTHERS DEVELOP RELATIONSHIP WITH PEKING, BUT HE WANTS TO HAVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PACE AND FORM OTHERS WILL ADOPT AS THEY MOVE CLOSER TO CHINA. LEE WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN OUR VIEWS ABOUT FUTURE OF ROC AND HOW WE INTEND TO HANDLE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM. GOS HOPES TO BE ABLE MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ROC.

B) THAILAND HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT TO SINGAPORE AS A BUFFER TO COMMUNIST PENETRATION OF SEA. LEE WILL BE INTERESTED IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH OF THAILAND, EXTENT OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY, AND OUR INTENTIONS TO MAINTAIN MILITARY PRESENCE THERE AND IN REGION. LEE WILL HAVE SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS TO OFFER ON THAI LEADERSHIP AND THEIR CAPACITY DEAL WITH INSURGENCY PROBLEM.

C) ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE GOS WANTS TO STAND CLEAR OF MUSLIM PROBLEM IN MINDANAO AND SULU ISLANDS, THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CONFLICT AND LEE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OUR ASSESSMENT AND OUR VIEWS ON WHAT WE OR OTHERS MIGHT DO TO CALM SITUATION. WE DON'T THINK GOS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO INVOLVE ITSELF SINCE THAT LIKELY TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE WELL FOR US TO TAKE LEE INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND TO SOLICIT HIS VIEWS AS TO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION.

D) FIVE- POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT AND ANZUK. LEE DOESN'T PLACE MUCH STOCK IN ANZUK AS A MILITARY FORCE, BUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS HE WANTS BOTH THE FPDA AND ANZUK MILITARY PRESENCE TO CONTINUE. HE MAY EXPRESS HOPE WE CAN ENCOURAGE GOA TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FPDA AND ANZUK. WITHDRAWAL OF AUSTRALIAN GROUND UNITS FROM ANZUK IS NOT REPEAT NOT A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN.

3. SUBJECTS WE MIGHT RAISE WITH LEE:

A) IF LEE DOES NOT RAISE MUSLIM/ PHIL PROBLEM, WE
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RECOMMEND SECRETARY RAISE IT WITH LEE AND ASK HIM FOR HIS

ASSESSMENT. HIS INSIGHTS COULD BE HELPFUL, BUT AGAIN WE WOULD CAUTION AGAINST SEEKING HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT.

B) LOS. THUS FAR, THE GOS HAS SUPPORTED OUR POSITION ON FREE VS. INNOCENT PASSAGE OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS, BUT THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT THEY MAY BE MOVING TOWARD SOME COMPROMISE WITH MALAYSIAN/ INDONESIAN POSITION. WE SHOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH LEE AND STRESS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO FREE PASSAGE CONCEPT.

C) SHIP VISITS. WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS AT MOMENT IN THIS AREA, BUT MIGHT BE WELL TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR WARM WELCOME SEVENTH FLEET HAS BEEN GIVEN IN SINGAPORE AND TO INDICATE OUR DESIRE, GOS WILLING, TO CONTINUE FREQUENT SEVENTH FLEET SHIP VISITS TO SINGAPORE.

D) GOS SEEMS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN MODEST WAY IN VIETNAMESE RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. IF SUBJECT NOT RAISED BY LEE, IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR US TO ALLUDE TO VAST PROGRAM OF RECONSTRUCTION WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED AND TO SUGGEST THAT GOS MAY WANT TO PLAY A ROLE. LEE UNLIKELY TO RESPOND TO PRESSURE, BUT SEEMS WELL DISPOSED ON THIS ISSUE AND LIKELY BE RESPONSIVE TO OUR STATEMENTS THAT WE CONSIDER CONTRIBUTION FROM SEA NEIGHBORS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FROM POLITICAL STANDPOINT.

E) WE SHOULD ASK FOR LEE' S ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE OF ASEAN, STRESSING IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO REGIONAL COOPERATION. HIS VIEWS ON POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF ASEAN AND ROLE IT MIGHT PLAY WOULD BE OF INTEREST.

F) IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET LEE' S VIEWS ON SINGAPORE' S BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY WITH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. OUR FEELING IS THAT RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDONESIA ARE IMPROVING BUT SINGAPORE/ MALAYSIAN RELATIONSHIPS SHOW LITTLE SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT.

G) WE MIGHT ASK FOR LEE' S ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTH OF INSURGENCY IN AREA, PARTICULARLY IN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND. HE SEEMS TO HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT ABILITY OF MALAYSIANS AND THAIS TO COPE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE PROBLEMS AND HIS
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VIEWS ON SUBJECT SHOULD BE OF INTEREST.

H) FINALLY, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SOMEONE TO EXPRESS TO PM OUR APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN GOS AND OUR BNDD DETACHMENT. SINGAPORE IS

GROWING IN IMPORTANCE AS TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR
NARCOTICS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THIS
FIELD IS VERY IMPORTANT. OUR RAISING THIS WITH PM
WOULD HELP REINFORCE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE WHICH ALREADY
EXISTS, AND MIGHT ENCOURAGE GREATER EFFORT ON PART SINGAPORE' S
CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU IN CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL
TRAFFIC THROUGH SINGAPORE.
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